

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 CU-02 DRC-01 (ISO)W

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O R 181600Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5956

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 7596

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: EX-UNDER SECRETARY OF CULTURE DISCUSSES
CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY. FORMER UNDER SECRETARY FOR CULTURE AND
SCIENCE VASSOS VASSILIOU IN PREPARED ADDRESS TO
FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION THIS WEEK EXPLAINED
CYPRUS COUP AS WHOLLY GREEK JUNTA FIASCO AND
TURKISH INVASION AS COMPLETE SURPRISE TO GREEK
MILITARY REGIME. END SUMMARY.

2. VASSOS VASSILIOU, ONE-TIME LEADING COLUMNIST
FOR VRADYNI AND UNDER SECRETARY FOR CULTURE AND
SCIENCE IN CARAMANLIS' NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT
ADDRESSED ATHENS FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 15
CONCENTRATING ON CYPRUS. HIS RENDITION OF EVENTS
IS NOTEWORTHY IN ASCRIBING FULL RESPONSIBILITY
OF "IOANNIDES COUP" TO FORMER REGIME WHICH PERPETRATED
EVENT AS "CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF DIVERSIONARY EXTERNAL
ACTION ... WHEN FACED WITH INTERNAL IMPASSE".
VASSILIOU DESCRIBED COUP PLAN AS TWICE POSTPONED AND
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FINALLY CONDUCTED BY SPECIAL MILITARY OFFICE WHICH

KEPT PLAN SECRET FROM CHIEFS OF AIR FORCE AND NAVY.
HE SAID OPERATION TOTALLY DISREGARDED LIKELIHOOD OF
TURKISH INVASION. "THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS NATIONAL
CRIME WERE SO CERTAIN THAT TURKS WOULD NOT INTERVENE
THAT UNITS OF NATIONAL GUARD ASSIGNED TO COASTGUARD
DUTIES WERE TRANSPORTED TO NICOSIA TO ASSIST IN
PURGE OF MAKARIOS' FOLLOWERS. YET LONG BEFORE COUP,
WHICH DENKTASH AT ANY RATE HAD ANTICIPATED AND
WHICH WAS AN OPEN SECRET THROUGHOUT CYPRUS, TURKISH
UNITS STARTED MOVING TOWARD COAST ... LANDING
CRAFT WERE ON THE WAY, YET THE COUP MAKERS WERE
JOKINGLY REMARKING THAT TURKS WERE BLUFFING
WHEN MOBILIZATION WAS CALLED IN GREECE, DIRECTOR OF
MOBILIZATION LEARNED ABOUT IT FROM RADIO BROADCAST."

3. AFTER RECALLING BRAVE RESISTANCE OF DEFENDING
FORCES AND FAILURE OF FIRST PHASE OF TURKISH INVASION
WHICH LED TO CLASH BETWEEN PM ECEVIT AND TURKISH
MILITARY LEADERS, VASSILOIU CONCLUDED THAT ASSESSMENT
OF CYPRUS EVENTS PROVES THAT WHEN THE COUPLING OF
POLITICS AND CULTURE IN COUNTRY IS DISTURBED TYRANNY
IS IMPOSED WHICH LEADS TO NATIONAL ENTANGLEMENTS.
"THIS HAPPENED IN GREECE WITH THE PAPADOPOULOS REGIME
WHICH CRUSHED POPULAR VITALITY AND WITH THE IOANNIDES
COUP WHICH LED TO CHAOS. VASSILIOU ENDED WITH
PRAISE FOR CARAMANLIS' NEW PARTY BY NOTING THAT
OLD LINK BETWEEN POLITICS AND CULTURE HAS BEEN
REVIVED THROUGH NEW DEMOCRACY WHICH IS ON GUARD
AGAINST ANY CLEAVAGE OF THESE TWO TIME-HONORED FORCES.

4. VASSILIOU'S SPEECH WHICH WAS REPORTED IN ALL
ATHENS NEWSPAPERS REPRESENTS OFFICIAL RENDERING OF
EVENTS OF CYPRUS CRISIS WHICH OMITTS TOTALLY MORE
POPULAR LITANY OF OUTSIDE CONSPIRATORIAL INVOLVEMENT
OR U.S./NATO ALLIES FAILURE TO DETER TURKS. THIS
CONSTRUCTIVE INTERPRETATION OF CYPRUS CRISIS, PAR-
TICULARLY IN PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD, SHOULD HAVE
USEFUL PUBLIC OPINION IMPACT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PERSONAL OPINION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS07596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740297-0566
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741037/aaaabfgj.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EX-UNDER SECRETARY OF CULTURE DISCUSSES CYPRUS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, (VASSILIOU, VASSOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005